

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A screw press (1) suitable for pressing fibrous material, in particular sugar beet pulp, comprising:

- a pair of adjacent counter-rotating shafts (20, 30) having their axes (X-X, X'-X'), disposed parallel to each other, said shafts (20, 30) each being provided externally with a box-like helical structure (21, 31), each of said helical structure (21, 31) winding in ~~the~~ an opposite direction with respect to the helical structure of the other shaft;
- a perforated walled filtering cage (4) enclosing said helical structures (21, 31) as an exact fit;
- a loading hopper (10) for feeding the fibrous material to the press (1);
- a discharge aperture (11) for the exit of the pressed material;
- a collection sump (12) positioned externally to said filtering cage (4) to collect the liquid component of the pressed fibrous material,

characterised in that each of said box-like helical structure structures (21, 31) comprises a helix (22, 32), each of said helixes having a pitch (P) and a helical element (23, 33), said helical element (27, 37) 23, 33) forming a helical collection interspace (27, 37) in cooperation with the outer surface of the shaft (20, 30) and comprising at least one perforated surface (24, 34), said perforated surface (24, 34) having a length (L) along the axis (X-X, X'-X') of the shaft (20, 30) which at every point is less than the pitch (P) of the helix (22, 32) ~~by an amount sufficient to leave free a creating an open channel adjacent to abutting~~ the helix (22, 32) in which the helix (23, 33) of the adjacent shaft (30, 20) is received.

2. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shaft (20, 30) has a cylindrical outer surface.

3. (Original) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shaft (20, 30) has a conical outer surface.

4. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said perforated surface (24, 34) ~~can be~~ is enveloped by a conical surface.

5. (Currently amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) ~~can be~~ is enveloped externally by a cylindrical surface.

6. (Currently amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) ~~can be~~ is enveloped externally by a conical surface.

7. (Previously Presented) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) is formed by a hollow box-like structure communicating with said helical interspace (27, 37) and presents at least one perforated side.

8. (Currently Amended) A press (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said helix (22, 32) presents a pitch decreasing in ~~the~~ a direction of advancement of the material during pressing.